

Get involved! Help improve health and social care services in Reading.

**Reading LINK e-bulletin 5
August 2009**

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Reading LINK Elections & AGM 20th October 2009 5-7pm Kennet Room, Civic Centre

Reading LINK will be holding its first AGM on 20th October 2009, an opportunity to share with attendees the progress made during its first year, encouraging more people to get involved and giving members of the LINK Reference Group an opportunity to vote on the appointment of the new LINK board. Membership of the Reference Group is open to individuals who are over 18 and who live or work, paid or voluntary in the Reading Borough area.

If you have not already registered your interest with the Reading LINK and wish to do so please respond to this e-mail requesting a Reference Group Form. You may also wish to give consideration to the possibility of nominating a suitable candidate for election to the Reading LINK Board, for more information and/or a nomination form please respond to this e-mail requesting these items. The closing date for any nominations is Monday 21st September 2009.

Reading LINK Website now live

Reading LINK's website is now live - take a look by clicking here:

<http://readinglink.org.uk/>

The website has details about Local Involvement Network's, how to contact us and get involved. An opportunity to comment on the projects and issues referred to the Reading LINK, as well as finding out about news and events relating to health and social care.

Update on the 2 Reading LINK Projects Diabetes Care

As a result of the work Reading Local Involvement Network (LINK) have been carrying out around diabetes care, NHS Berkshire West have teamed up with the Reading LINK and Diabetes UK to host the event at The Warehouse, on 9th July 2009, it was aimed primarily at people with diabetes and their carers but anyone else in Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire with an interest in the diabetes were welcomed.

The event was well attended filling the main hall at The Warehouse. It comprised of a series of speakers including Dr David Buckle, Medical Director, NHS Berkshire West, David Shepherd from Reading LINK, and Jill Steaton, Diabetes UK, as well as a personal account from a young girl, speaking about what it is like living with diabetes. This was followed by group discussions where attendees discussed methods of receiving information and support, comments and suggestions collected, will be used to provide feedback into existing services.

The event helped to more fully explore issues around education and information for those living with diabetes, Reading LINK now have some further work to do looking at the issues raised around retinal screening and insulin pump therapy.

Toenail Cutting for the Elderly

Age Concern Reading referred the above issue to the Reading LINK. Their research had shown that over the last 10 years NHS Chiropody Services have been increasingly rationed

and this is evident in Reading. It would appear, access to foot care services is dependent on ability to pay rather than need, with one in three people over 65 not able to cut their own nails. This can result in poor mobility, loss of independence, social isolation and susceptibility to falls.

Reading LINK took this issue for investigation and members of the LINK Interim Board joined a Task and Finish Group, along with Janet Brown, of Age Concern Reading. To date NHS Berkshire West Primary Care Trust has stated that they will be reassessing this issue as part of a review of podiatry services planned in 2009/10.

Outcome of Assisted Conception Public Consultation

The period of public engagement on proposals to change the eligibility criteria for Assisted Conception Services closed on 17 April 2009. South Central Specialised Services Commissioning Group would like to thank everyone who responded.

The NHS across South Central has sought to involve local people and key stakeholders and seek their views on access criteria for assisted conception services.

For the South Central area as a whole, over 500 responses were received from the public (466 from residents in the region) through the on-line questionnaire. Written responses were also received from local MPs, clinicians and treatment providers, national charities, and the local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

For more information and to find the details of the outcomes of the consultation, click on the following link: <http://www.scscg.nhs.uk> <<http://www.scscg.nhs.uk/>>

Public Consultations – Have your say....

Shaping the Future of Care Together/Big Care Debate

On 14th July the government launched the Green Paper, Shaping the Future of Care Together, which suggests ways we can improve the care and support system in England, both in the way it is delivered and funded. The vision is to create a system for the future that is fairer, simple to understand and more affordable for everyone.

Following publication of the Green Paper, a period of public consultation is being held.

During this time there will be a series of events across the country discussing the Green Paper in detail and the public have been invited to give their views.

Join the big care debate and to find out more click here:

<http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/>

General Medical Council Consultation

The General Medical Council are consulting the public to seek views on three pieces of draft supplementary guidance for doctors -

- Good practice in research
- Consent to research
- Making and using visual and audio recordings of patients

Read and take part in the consultation online at <https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/default.aspx>

Or hard copy request 020 7189 5404 until 25 September 2009.

Find out more about Reading LINK

If you would like a representative from Reading LINK to come along to one of your group meetings or events or you would like to find out more, please do contact us:

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